

Amendments to the Claims

The current listing of the claims replaces all previous amendments and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) An inkjet recording apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

an inkjet recording head arranged to eject ink drops onto front and back surfaces of a recording sheet;

a sheet feeding mechanism configured and adapted for feeding at least a portion of a recording sheet to a location outside of the housing to expedite drying of the ink drops after the first side of the sheet has been printed, and for ~~feeding the dried printed sheet back into the housing for~~ printing on the second side of the sheet; and

a controller configured to control the sheet feeding mechanism to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for a predetermined time period to allow the ink drops printed on the first side of the sheet to dry before printing on the second side of the sheet.

2. (Currently Amended) An inkjet recording apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

an inkjet recording head arranged to eject ink drops onto front and back surfaces of a recording sheet;

a sheet feeding mechanism located within said housing for feeding the recording sheet in a first direction at least partially outside said housing to expedite drying of the ink drops after one side of the sheet has been printed and before a second side of the sheet is printed, and in a second direction for ~~feeding the dried one side printed sheet back into the housing for~~ printing on the second side of the sheet; and

a controller configured to control the sheet feeding mechanism to maintain the recording sheet at least partially outside the housing for a predetermined time period to allow the ink drops printed on the one side of the sheet to dry before printing on the second side of the sheet.

3. (Currently Amended) An inkjet recording apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

an inkjet recording head arranged to eject ink drops onto front and back surfaces of a recording sheet;

a first sheet ejection path configured and adapted for transporting sheets printed by said ink jet head out of the housing;

a second sheet ejection path, comprising a switchback mechanism configured and adapted for transporting at least a portion of a recording sheet printed on the first surface to a location outside the housing to expedite drying of the print on the first surface and for returning the recording sheet printed on the first surface into the housing for printing on the recording sheet second surface; and

a controller configured to control the switchback mechanism to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside the housing for a predetermined time period to allow ink drops printed on the recording sheet first surface to dry before returning the recording sheet printed on the first surface back into the housing for printing on the recording sheet second surface.

4. (Original) An inkjet recording apparatus as defined in Claim 3, further comprising:

a first sheet diverting mechanism configured and adapted for diverting the printed recording sheet to the first sheet ejection path and a second position for diverting the printed sheet to the second sheet ejection path; and

a second sheet diverting mechanism having a first position for directing a recording sheet in the second sheet ejection path to the switchback mechanism and a second position for directing the recording sheet from the switchback mechanism to the ink jet recording head for printing on the second surface of the recording sheet.